GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6080
ANSWERED ON:11.04.2017
Price Labels on Food Items
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Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any policy mechanism to cross check the price label tags on packaged food items;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for discrepancy in labelled price and the real selling price;

(d) whether directions have been issued to manufacturing units to put price tags in a certain way;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the punitive action taken/proposed to check spontaneous/random price tags on packaged food items like flour, dal and such other essential items?

Answer

(a) & (b): No, Madam. There is no policy to cross check the price label tags on packaged food items because the Maximum Retail Price (MRP) to be printed on various products is determined by the manufacturing/ importing companies themselves. Competition in market place determines the sale price of a commodity, depending on demand, availability and quality.

(c): The retail sale price printed on a pre packaged commodity is the Maximum Retail Price and a consumer may buy the product at a price lower than MRP.

(d) & (e): Under the Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 2011 it is mandatory to declare the Name and address of the manufacturer/ packer/ importer, Name of the Commodity, Net quantity, month and year of manufacturing/ packing/ importing, Retail sale price and consumer care details to protect the interest of consumers. Further, the place where the declaration should be given and size of declarations are prescribed under rule 7 & 8 of the said rules. However, importers are allowed to affix a label for making declaration required under these rules.

(f): The penalty provisions are provided under section 36(1) of the Legal Metrology Act, 2009 for the violation in respect of the mandatory declarations on the label.